(ख) बिहार के नबी नगर में 1000 मे. वा. की मेगा विद्युत परियोजना का विकास किये जाने के लिए भारत सरकार ने प्रस्ताव रखा है।

(ग) पावर ग्रिड कार्पोरेशन आफ इंडिया ने इस परियोजना के लिए 18, अगस्त 1997 को नोटिस इनवाटिंग टेण्डर जारी किया है। बोली संबंधी प्रत्येक क्रय करने की अंतिम तारीख 30 नवम्बर, 1997 है।

Impact of Price Hike of natural Gas on Power Generation Sector

281. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the impact of the recent hike in prices of Natural gas on the power generation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): The recent increase in prices of natural gas has resulted in an increase in the fuel component of power tariff of gas based power stations. The price of gas varies for different gas based projects decending inter alia upon the sales tax levied in different states and the calorific value of gas fired. The increase in tariff because of the recent hike in prices of natural gas is in the range of 15 paise/ KWH to 18 paise/KWH in respect of gas power stations in the Central Sector.

Offering of Power Transmission Projects to Foreign and Domestic Companies

282. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision to offer six major power transmission projects to foreign and domestic companies;

(b) what are the main modalities of the agreements drawn up in this regard;

(c) in which States/Union territories the projects are located and what would be the completion dates; and

(d) what are the details of expenditure involved, the plans for investment and the results to be achieved in these six projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) The following six transmission projects, with a total estimated cost of Rs. 8,000 crores have been identified for investment with the involvement of private sector:

(i) AC interconnector between Raipur in Western Region and Rourkela in Eastern Region — Rs. 300 Crores.

(ii) Transmission system for evacuation of power from Hirma (Orissa) to the Northern Region — Rs. 3355 crores.

(iii) Transmission system for evacuation of power from Hirma to the Western Region— Rs. 1300 crores.

(iv) Transmission scheme in the chicken neck area of West Bengal to evacuate power from the North Eastern Region — Rs. 350 crores.

(v) HVDC Line associated with transmission system of Talcher II project of NTPC in Orissa to evacuate power to southern Region— Rs. 1250 crores.

(vi) DHDVDC terminus at Talcher Project in Orissa and at Kolar (near Bangalore) in Karnataka associated with Transmission system of Talcher II project of NTPC — Rs. 1520 crores. The Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill 1997 was introduce in the last session of Parliament to amend the Indian Electricity Act 1910 and Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 to widen the scope for private investment in transmission projects. The Bill is under the consideration of the Standing Committee on

Energy. The modalities of the agreements, plans for investment including private investment will be worked out after the amendments are approved by parliament.

Maintenance and Reconstruction of Existing Power Projects

283. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken or are being taken by Government to improve the maintenance and re-construction of the various existing power projects for power generation during the year 1997;

(b) what support are Government giving or plan to give to SEBs to pull them out of their present sickness;

(c) what targets have been fixed for production of additional poweer and the steps to be taken to achieve the targets during the current year; and

(d) what is the cost per MW of power generation from various sources in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The Central Government has been emphasizing to the State Governments and other utility owners to improve the utilisation of their existing assets and has, in this context, urged them to adopt improved operation and maintenance practices as well as undertake an extensive renovation & modernisation programme.

(b) With a view to improving the physical and financial health of the SEBs. Government of India has been extending to them a variety of support services. Power Fifnance Corporation, a Central Government financial institution for the power sector, is extending loans to SEBs for their projects. To improve the physical performance of their generation facilities, the Government of India has been assisting them in timely procurement of adequate quantities of fuel and other inputs. SEBs are also being given a variety of technical services by Central Electricity Authority. The Central Government has also been urging all the State Governments to undertake a major restructuring of their SEBs and the electricity industry in general in their States as to improve the commercial viability of their operations.

(c) A gencation target of 429 Billion Units (BUs) has been fixed for 1997-98 as against 400 BUs for 1996-97. With a view to assisting the SEBs to achieve these enhanced targets, a short term plan of action viz. Programme for Accelerated Generation. Evacuation and Refurbishment (PAGER) has been initiated by the Government. The programme envisages concerted action to tackle the problems of fuel supply, coal, oil and other liquid fuels, its transportation, adoption of better plant level practices and to improve the liquidity for identified power stations. An inter-Minsiterial Groups has also been set up for rendering assistance to the States/ SEBs for monitoring of their efforts and results.

(d) The average capital cost per MW of recently cleared power projects by Central Electricity Authority is Rs. 3.1 Cr. for a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine station and Rs. 4.3 Cr. for a coal based station. For hydcl power stations, the per MW capital cost varies between Rs. 4 Cr. and Rs. 7.5 Cr. depending upon the site selected.

Rural Electrification during the 9th Five Year Plan period

284. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount earmarked for electrification of rural areas during the Ninth Five" Year Plan period;

(b) what is the number of villages likely to be provided with the electricity